

Abstract

A ram guidance system for a stamping press is provided including an outer bush mounted to a portion of the stamping press. The outer bush has a central passageway sized and arranged so that a reciprocating ram extends through the passageway. An inner bush is coaxially mounted to the outer bush and a portion of the rod, with an anti-friction bearing assembly positioned between the outer bush and the inner bush so as to guide their relative movement. In another embodiment of the invention, a metal stamping system for operating a die set is provided that includes an outer bush mounted to a portion of the stamping press. The outer bush includes a passageway sized and arranged so that a ram extends through the passageway so as to be enclosed by the outer bush. An inner bush is coaxially mounted to (i) the outer bush and (ii) a portion of the ram, with an anti-friction bearing assembly positioned between the outer bush and the inner bush so as to guide their relative movement. Tie rods may be used to form a supporting structure of the press.

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